

## **Attachment 1**

### **Mission and Objectives of USDA Forest Service and San Diego River Conservancy**

#### *United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service*

As the lead federal agency in natural resource conservation, the USDA Forest Service provides leadership in the protection, management, and use of the nation's forest, rangeland, and aquatic ecosystems. The Forest Service implements an ecosystem approach to management that integrates (balances) ecological, economic, and social factors to maintain and enhance the quality of the environment to meet current and future needs. Through implementation of land and resource management plans, the agency ensures sustainable ecosystems by restoring and maintaining species diversity and ecological productivity that provide opportunities for recreation, water, timber, minerals, fish, wildlife, wilderness, and aesthetic values for current and future generations. The Forest Service develops and maintains camping facilities and public trails throughout its national forests.

#### *San Diego River Conservancy*

In creating the San Diego River Conservancy, the State of California recognized the importance of holding the San Diego River area lands in trust to be preserved and enhance for the enjoyment of present and future generations. The State of California also recognized the statewide and national significance of the San Diego River and its many and varied resources.

Pursuant to the San Diego River Act<sup>1</sup>, the San Diego River Conservancy was created for the following purposes: (a) to acquire and manage public lands within the San Diego River Area, and to provide recreational opportunities, open space, wildlife habitat and species restoration and protection, wetland protection and restoration, and protection and maintenance of the quality of the waters in the San Diego River for all beneficial uses, lands for educational uses within the area, and natural floodwater conveyance. (b) To provide for the public's enjoyment, and to enhance the recreational and educational experience on public lands in the territory in a manner consistent with the protection of land and natural resources, as well as economic resources, in the area.

#### *San Diego River Park and Trail*

In order to achieve its many objectives, the Conservancy and its partners are in the early stages of developing a 52-mile long San Diego River Park and River Park Trail. Ultimately the trail will stretch from the headwaters of the River near Julian (a popular historic gold mining town) to the Pacific Ocean. One key goal of the River Park is to connect several important local parks including Mission Bay, Presidio, Balboa, and the Mission Trails Regional Park. Additionally the San Diego River Trail will connect with numerous important (existing or planned) recreational

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<sup>1</sup> San Diego River Conservancy Act (enabling statute): Public Resources Code, Division 22.9, Commencing with Section 32630.

trails including the California Coastal Trail (from Oregon to Mexican Borders), the Trans-County Trail (from Pacific Ocean to Salton Sea), and possibly the Pacific Crest Trail (from the Canadian to Mexican borders.). In this way, the San Diego River Park Trail will provide inland communities (including economically challenged and ethnically diverse communities) with walking access to the entire Pacific coastline, desert, and the San Diego River Park.